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Russia's New Naval Ideas

If the Russian Baltic fleet has started on a voyage three-quarters round the world with the intention of blazing away at every object appearing above its horizon, the Powers had better send a fleet after it and either make the Russian turn back to his own little Baltic or put him out of business altogether. In the light of the explanations of the North Sea incident, what is to become of the first Atlantic liner that is sighted by this amazing Russian navy? One explanation says that the Russians were firing in the fog, in order to keep in touch with one another, while another explanation declares that the war vessels feared an attack with explosives from the fishing boats. Hurling deadly shells in every direction is certainly a most remarkable way for vessels to keep in touch with one another, and if continued ought to place some of them in touch with the bottom, but it is not more remarkable than the notion that the safety of big war vessels in the open sea demanded the sinking of harmless fishing boats.

About the worst feature of the affair is that none of the explanations offer any safety to other vessels. Are the Russians going to cross the Atlantic and then the Pacific sending out deadly broadsides when darkness or fog sets in, in order to keep in touch with one another? Are they going to conclude that every vessel they meet has explosives and may attack them? If Russia cannot offer any better explanations of her North Sea actions than have so far been offered, Great Britain, or perhaps all the powers, should take into their own hands the task of protecting navigation. The Baltic fleet should be removed, before it sinks some more important vessels than trawlers. It is a menace to navigation.

Why Brown Was Not Nominated

The statement is still repeated that Cecil Brown as a defeated candidate for a Republican nomination, was a victim of the administration, in spite of the fact that a number of employees of the administration voted for him. The fact is that the Republican convention followed a most natural party course in defeating Brown. In finding that Brown was not a suitable member of the party organization upon whom to confer honors and with whom to entrust party pledges of policy, the Republicans of 1904 reached exactly the same conclusion that was reached by Senator Brown's associates in the American Union party years ago. So far is Brown from being a "victim of the Carter administration," as it was put in a meeting last night, that the opposition to him began within the party before there was any Carter administration. Among men who represented the people in the legislature here the opposition to Cecil Brown began years ago even before there was a Republican party in Hawaii. The refusal of a Republican convention to nominate him is the natural, logical development from his character and record in political life.

But for Cecil Brown's opposition to the convention declarations of his party in 1898, Honolulu would now have a prospect of owning a splendid public beach front at Kapiolani Park. The American Union party, of which Brown was a member, declared in its convention in 1897 that there should be no more granting of titles to the fine beach front owned by the government, from the Cunha place to that of William G. Irwin, but that as leases expired all this beach property should be retained by the government, to become a part of Kapiolani Park. This is a policy so obviously for the public good that opposition to it could hardly be expected from anyone. Yet Senator Brown, retaining a seat in the Senate as a hold-over, not only fought the beach park bill, but at the very opening of the session introduced a counter bill under which private ownership was made easy. It is a reflection upon our island government that there is at the present time no place where the public have free access to the beach in Honolulu. With one of the finest beaches in the world for recreation, we have not a foot of it that is not under private control. And it is to the policy of Cecil Brown that these conditions are due. Kapiolani Park should have a splendid, long beach frontage, such as other cities the world over dedicate to the public. As it is the park is shut off from the beach front by a row of private dwellings. Is not this enough alone to make Cecil Brown's old party associates disgusted with his course as a senator?

In the Senate of '08 neither the Brown bill nor the one to provide for public ownership of beach front was passed. Each killed the other. It is perhaps irrelevant to remark that within a month after the end of the session a relative of Senator Brown secured a title in fee simple to valuable beach property. But certainly this did not add to the satisfaction with which the members of the American Union party, some of them now Republicans, regarded Brown's record. It made them loth to support him for another nomination four years ago, when he won a nomination nevertheless and was elected by the efforts of a united Republican party, aided by those whom he had defeated in convention. It made them again oppose him this time, with the different result that he was defeated for a nomination. Instead of supporting his successful opponents as in the former year his defeated opponents supported him, he turned from the convention to get Democracy's help to defeat his party.

The last session of the legislature was only another lesson to the party men who opposed Senator Brown as a candidate. The first bill introduced in the Senate,—it got ahead of even the county bill which the party, as a bit of sentiment had decided should be Senate Bill No. 1 and should be introduced by the President,—was Brown's Act authorizing the deposit of public money in a designated depository. In 1897, no one knew Brown was going into the Senate with an act in his pocket to cause private ownership of beach lots properly belonging to the park. In 1903 no one knew that he would get ahead of his party's programmed county bill with an act vitally affecting the banking business in which he happens to be engaged. Brown's banking bill in the last session failed to become law. What other bills were held up in the efforts to get it to the governor, is a story senators and representatives can tell. It was a bill, according to its opponents and to those who are opposing Brown now that would have been highly advantageous to Senator Brown's bank. All this is history and it is only relevant now as answering the foolish claim that Brown is a victim of anyone. The opposition to Cecil Brown in the last Republican convention and before the convention met was a proper result of his own course in the past. Having gone to one Senate with a bill to oppose his party in keeping public beach property and to another pressing a banking scheme regardless of party, and desiring to go to a third to work out a grudge against an executive who disagrees with his policies, what is more natural than that Brown should find Republican leaders objected to nominating him? Why nominate a man who has shown that he represents no public and wants to go to the Senate with a pet banking bill in one pocket and resolutions against the governor in another?

A Heavy Blow To Russia

A Japanese consular dispatch of this morning gives the Japanese losses in the battle of Shaho, as it is called, at over 15,000. From the same source the report is that over 13,000 Russians were buried on the field by the Japanese, and that 700 prisoners were taken. If these figures are correct the Russian losses must be several times as large as the Japanese. The Japanese figures include killed and wounded, while the Russian figures include only those of the killed whom

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AGENTS

the Russians were unable to bury themselves, or take from the field. Thirteen thousand men left dead on the field would represent an appalling total of losses. The captured guns all indicate a substantial victory. In one sense it is a highly significant victory for the Japanese, as it is won in the first battle after Kuropatkin's change of plan. It was the first encounter after he ceased "luring them on" by his own admission, and decided to carry out his plan to take the aggressive "with overwhelming force." Such a defeat, after his stirring address to his army, must mean much at St. Petersburg. If the hardly believable theory that Russian wants to involve other nations is correct, the battle of shaho is probably the blow which made her decide that now is the time.

Governor Carter: "Et tu, Beal."

The man who says he is going to "scratch" and does not know whom is a political freak. The only reason a man can have for scratching is that there is some one he feels he cannot vote for on his party's ticket.

Every intelligent voter should remember the words of the Democratic chairman's latest written campaign document: "The highest and most useful function of a representative of the people is to resist executive encroachment and from the very start to foresee and at once call a halt upon any subversion of established landmarks." Here is something to vote against.

The highest and most useful function of a representative of the people in Hawaii is to attend to the business of a legislature and adjourn as quickly as possible.

By the appointment of William Henry as High Sheriff Oahu prison has lost a warden who is a difficult man to replace. The position of warden of a large prison is one that calls for specially strong character and steady judgment. The new sheriff not only possesses these, but he has been a student of penology and is up-to-date in all that is best in American prison administration. That he will make an efficient High Sheriff is certain, but care should be taken that the benefits which may result from his administration of his new office are not counterbalanced by loss of efficiency in the other position. The arbitrary powers necessarily in the hands of a prison warden and the temptations to which

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Evidently there is room for adoption of an improved system in the handling of some of the funds, perhaps not government funds, which are received at the police station. It is really unfair to a youth who may be employed as clerk to leave him in a position where hundreds of dollars are in his possession for which he need not make any definite report at any particular time. Systems which leave employees to undue temptation foster dishonesty and Systems which leave employees to under the ordinary course of affairs would have been quite honorable.

In giving an order to the effect that police officers must not go into saloons for drinks either on or off duty under pain of dismissal is not the new administration going to an extreme? The question is one which must have suggested itself to every one who heard of the order when it was first promulgated. That in the past policemen's visits to saloons at all sorts of times have been winked at is no doubt the fact and it will be readily conceded that it is not becoming to the dignity of the force if men on duty or even in uniform when not on duty are allowed to frequent drinking places, but in prescribing that a man in his own time shall not go to a saloon for a drink the administration certainly appears to have swung to a far extreme. A policeman is only a man and he is no more apt to be perfect than are men in other walks in life, and as long as it is not a criminal offence to take a drink in a saloon just as long should they be entitled to avail themselves of a right which other citizens hold. Certainly if any officer becomes a notorious haunter of saloons in his off hours he should be subject to dismissal just as would the employee of any private firm, but the order as it stands is utterly un-American. Apart altogether from the unfairness of the rule lies the fact that it will be inoperative and as such it is worse than no rule at all.

The latest bit of New York theatrical press work is a story of how an actor killed with one blow of his fist a horse that had bitten him. Perhaps the horse was soned.

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